

Glastonbury Hartwell Soccer Club

Policy on developmentally appropriate coaching for K-1st grade

In line with our current curriculum we are introducing a policy regarding developmentally appropriate groupings for all 3v3 games involving K & 1st grade players.

Starting this coming spring season we are asking all coaches to communicate with each other ahead of the games to ensure players are playing on the appropriate fields with and against children of similar ability. This is in no way labeling players as 'A' or 'B' or 'blue' or 'white' and we are not creating sub teams within your current squads. To the contrary we would expect these smaller groups to evolve as the season progresses and players naturally develop at varying rates through the season. They will also change from week to week based on the strengths and weaknesses of opposing team.

There are many reasons for implementing this policy and I would refer everybody to section 2 of Glastonbury Hartwell's Player Development Curriculum where the theories behind long term player development are explained in great depth.

In line with our mission statement of fostering skill development, fun and ultimately a love of the game this is an integral part of the process as potentially none of it will be developed if players are becoming disillusioned and frustrated at playing with and against children of vastly different abilities to them.

Playing 3v3 provides every player with the opportunity to develop their game as fewer players on the field afford ALL players more touches of the ball. On the flip side if one or two players continually dominate games and possession due to their stronger ability then four or five players risk rarely touching the ball. Similarly the better players risk not being challenged which could again lead to dissatisfaction with the game and a loss of interest.